

Amendments to the Claims:

What is claimed

-- 34. A surgical apparatus for providing access to a body cavity of a patient through an incision, the apparatus comprising:

a first member having a portion configured for attachment to the patient and a first coupling disposed proximate the portion, the first member defining a passageway for accessing the body cavity through the incision, wherein the passageway has a diameter sufficient to pass a surgeon's hand; and

a second member including a second coupling configured for releasable attachment to the first coupling and a flexible portion configured to extend into the passageway and surround a surgeon's arm passing through the passageway, said flexible portion comprises a sealable opening configured to receive and seal around the surgeon's arm wherein the sealable opening is configured to be seal closed in the absence of the surgeon's arm.

35. The surgical apparatus of claim 34, wherein the flexible portion comprises an envelope.

Please cancel claim 36 without prejudice.

37. The surgical apparatus of claim ~~34~~ 36, wherein the flexible portion comprises opposed tongue and groove flexible strips for sealing the sealable opening around the surgeons arm.

38. The surgical apparatus of claim ~~34~~ 36, further comprising a flexible cord for sealing the sealable opening around the surgeon's arm.

Please cancel claim 39 without prejudice.

40. The surgical apparatus of claim 34 ~~36~~, wherein during use the sealable opening is sufficient to maintain insufflation pressure in the body cavity when sealed around the surgeon's arm.

41. The surgical apparatus of claim 34 ~~36~~, wherein the flexible portion comprises a second sealable opening.

42. The surgical apparatus of claim 34 ~~36~~, wherein the first and second couplings form a seal when releaseably attached.

43. The surgical apparatus of claim 42, wherein the seal is sufficient to maintain insufflation pressure within the body cavity.

44. The surgical apparatus of claim 34 ~~36~~, wherein one of the first and second couplings has an annular groove, and at least a portion of the other of the first and second couplings is dimensioned to engage the groove.

45. The surgical apparatus of claim 34 ~~36~~, wherein the length of the flexible portion is greater than the distance from the first coupling to the portion of the first member.

46. The surgical apparatus of claim 34 ~~36~~, wherein the first coupling is in substantially vertical registration with the portion of the first member configured for attachment to the patient.

47. The surgical apparatus of claim 46, wherein the passageway extends through the vertically registered portion and first coupling of the first member, and wherein the passageway lies along a generally straight axis.

48. The surgical apparatus of claim 34 ~~36~~, wherein the portion of the first member configured for attachment to the patient is dimensioned to be inserted into the incision.

49. The surgical apparatus of claim 48, wherein the first member has axially opposite proximal and distal ends, wherein the first coupling is at the distal end and the portion for attachment to the patient is at the proximal end and comprises an annular rim that is insertable through the incision to underlie the tissue with the first member projecting through the incision to secure and seal the first member to body tissue surrounding the incision.

50. A surgical apparatus for providing access to a body cavity of a patient through an incision, the apparatus comprising:

a first member having a portion configured for attachment to the patient and a first coupling disposed proximate the portion, the first member defining a passageway for accessing the body cavity through the incision, wherein the passageway has a diameter sufficient to pass a surgeon's hand and the first coupling is in substantially vertical registration with the portion of the first member configured for attachment to the patient.; and

a second member including a second coupling configured for releasable attachment to the first coupling and a flexible portion configured to extend into the passageway and surround a surgeon's arm passing through the passageway, wherein the flexible portion comprises a sealable opening configured to receive and seal around the surgeon's arm, wherein the sealable opening is configured to be seal closed in the absence of the surgeon's arm.

51. The surgical apparatus of claim 50, wherein the flexible portion comprises opposed tongue and groove flexible strips for sealing the sealable opening around the surgeons arm.

52. The surgical apparatus of claim 50, further comprising a flexible cord for sealing the sealable opening around the surgeon's arm.

53. The surgical apparatus of claim 50, wherein the first member has axially opposite proximal and distal ends, wherein the first coupling is at the distal end and the portion for attachment to the patient is at the proximal end and comprises an annular rim that is insertable through the incision to underlie the tissue with the first